

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 MCT-01 SSM-03 AF-08 /095 W  
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R 190845Z JAN 77  
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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC 217  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T AMMAN 0344

E.O. 115652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR FR JO PLO XF  
SUBJECT: TALK WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR--MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: STATE 008180

1. AT HIS REQUEST I MET JANUARY 18 WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR CHARPY WHO HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN AMMAN FOR OVER A YEAR AND A HALF. BULK OF THE DISCUSSION WAS FOCUSED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA INCLUDING EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RAPPROCHMENT. RECENT MEETINGS ON RESUMPTION OF RABIT SUMMIT PAYMENTS HUSSEIN SADAT MEETING AND SHIFTING SITUATION WITH PLO.

2. CHARPY SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WHILE PLO LEADERSHIP WAS IN TROUBLE THERE WAS RELUCTANCE AMONG EQUPTIANS AND SYRIANS TO ATTEMPT TO REPLACE ARAFAT. IF PNA WERE ENLARGED BY ADDITION OF MORE MODERATES CHARPY THOUGHT IT COULD BE HELPFUL IN INTRODUCING AND REINFORCING MORE MODERATE POLICIES IN PRESENT PLO LEADERSHIP GROUP.

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3. CHARPY SAID THAT GOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGUAD DOES PLAN VISIT TO THE AREA AND HHOPED TO BE IN JORDAN ON FEBRUARY 20. JORDANIANS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE DATE BECAUSE KING JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN WILL BE HERE FOR APPROXIMATELY INE WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 21. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS TRIP WHICH INCLUDES BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS IS ALREADY

LOCKED IN. CHARPY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT FOR GUIRINGARD TO VISIT JORDAN AND HOPES TO WORK OUT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. CHARPY SAID THAT GUIRINGAUD HAS NEVER SEEN MIDDLE EAST ON THE GROUND AND THAT THE TRIP "WILL HAVE NO RESULT" EXCEPT TO GIVE GUIRINGARD A PERSONAL FEEL FOR MIDDLE EAST LEADERS AND TERRAIN.

3. CHARPY SAID THAT GENSHCER VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE ARISEN IN PART BECAUSE GENSHER SENSED A VACUUM IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS AND IN PART BECAUSE IT PRESENTED SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR HIMSELF AND FRG. (GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN EFFECT CONFIRMED LATTER POINT WITH US WHEN HE ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING SMALL GERMAN MISSION HERE PREPARED ITSELF TO PROVIDE PRESS COVERAGE MATERIALS FOR GENSCHER.)

4. ONE MORE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN-US COORDINATION. CHARPY THOUGHT EUROPEANS HAD NO REAL INTERMEDIARY ROLE TO PLAY AS FOR EXAMPLE BY TAKING A POSITION BETWEEN THAT OF THE US ON ONE HAND AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE OTHER. FURTHER HE SAID FRENCHSDID NOT HAVE THE CONTACTS NOR THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION TO ASSUME FOR ITSELF THE ROLE OF MODERATOR IN MIDDLE EASTERAN AFFAIRS EVEN IF IT SHOULD WISH TO DO SO. IN HIS JUDGEMENT SAME ANALYSIS APPLIED TO FRG. HOWEVER HE DID SAY THAT HE THOUGHT FRENCH PERCEPTIONS AND NALAYSES COULD BE HELPFUL TO THE US AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION LOOKS ANEW AT THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO HE SAID IT WAS HIS OWN JUDGEMENT THAT FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEANS SHOULD BE PREPARED AT THE  
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APPROPRIATE TIME TO REINFORCE AND SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISIONS THE US MAY REACH IN ITS EFFORTS TO MOVE THE AREA TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT. THIS WOULD REQUIRE CONTACT AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. HE SAID THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE AND SUPPORTING POLICY ON THE PART OF THE EUROPEANS COULD ALSO ASSIST AT CRUCIAL TIMES IN OVERCOMING HURDLES IN AREAS WHERE EUROPEANS HAD GOOD RELATIONS AMONG THE ARABS. I TOLD CHARPY THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE A SENSIBLE APPROACH AND RECALLED TIME IN THE PAST WHEN THE EC-9, PARTICULARLY IN LATE 1973, GOT OUT AHEAD AND ON THEIR OWN IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS IN A WAY WHICH HAD NOT MADE OUR ROLE ANY EASIER.

5. LEAVING THE FRENCH EMBASSY I ASKED CHARPY IF HE HAD HAD ANY REACTIONS FROM JORDAN OVER THE ABU DAOUD AFFAIRS. HE SAID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAD COME UP HERE. I SAID IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL SINCE IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT ASIDE FROM OBVIOUSLY SPLIT VIEW HERE

ABU DAOUD HAD ALSO BEEN ARRESTED IN JORDAN  
AT ONE TIME AND THEN RELEASED. CHARPY INDICATED THAT  
IT WAS HIS OWB VIEW THAT ARREST HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT  
KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN OFFICE AND PARTICULARLY THE COUNTRY CHIEF  
LEVEL OFFICIALS THERE WHO HAD RECEIVED ABU DAOUD. HOWEVER HE  
DID NOT DISSPUTE MY STATEMENT THAT IT SEEMED TO ALL OF US  
THAT FRENCH CALCUATIONS ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD  
MUST HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DECISION TO LET  
ABU DAOUD GO.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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